

Workers Statement: Freddie Vargas
HB 6877: AN ACT CONCERNING A MINIMUM WORK WEEK FOR PERSONS PERFORMING
JANITORIAL WORK

Thank you members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee for letting me speak today. My name is Freddie Vargas and I'm here today to speak in support of the Better Jobs Act because I believe the cleaning industry can do better to provide sufficient hours to all workers who wish they could work full time.

There's no reason why workers who want to do work that needs to be done are forced to juggle multiple jobs just to get by.

I've been cleaning at Sikorsky Aircrafts in Stratford for over 10 years. I started part-time, but quickly I became a full time employee and I can appreciate the stability that a full-time job gives to families-- but also to businesses.

We all do better work when we know that we are not a sickness away from being bankrupt.

So many of my part-time coworkers struggle because they don't have employer paid insurance. I know this woman who has 3 kids who prays for her family to stay healthy because every time they get sick she has to pay her medical bills out of pocket. And if you don't have full time hours you don't get employer paid healthcare. This is not fair. And it just doesn't make sense. So much time is wasted replacing workers who quit because they need more hours and they go elsewhere. Part-time may be necessary sometimes, but we should aim at making sure that good quality full-time jobs are created first.

I hope you consider this legislation, I know it'll benefit a lot of good hardworking people.

Many thanks.